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ABSTRACT

The 22 entries in this annotated bibliography represent articles that have lesbian women or gay men as subjects and that deal with a specific verbal or nonverbal communication factor. Topics covered in the entries include patterns of self-disclosure in homosexual and heterosexual college students, interpersonal conflict in homosexual relations, communication behavior of male homosexuals, homosexual labeling and the male role, code switching and sexual orientation, heterosexual bias in psychological research on lesbianism and male homosexuality, male homophobia, and homosexual language. (FL)

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# ALTERNATIVE COMMUNICATIONS

BULLETIN OF THE CAUCUS OF GAY AND LESBIAN CONCERNS OF THE SPEECH COMMUNICATION ASSOCIATION

Editors: James Chesebro, Temple University and Jan Carl Park, Indiana University

May 1979 Volume 1, No. 2

## An Annotated Bibliography of Gay and Lesbian Communication Studies

Jan Carl Park, Indiana University

This issue of Alternative Communications is devoted to an annotated bibliography of recent studies dealing with gay men and lesbian women from a communication perspective. A total of 1238 articles and annotated bibliographic listings were reviewed from studies published between 1964-1979 (a majority between 1974-1979). Forty-two studies of gay men and lesbian women examined from various verbal and nonverbal communication modes were found, of which 22 are included here. These 42 studies represent 0.035% of the 1238 studies reviewed, a striking statistical statement illustrating the need for gay and lesbian communication research.

Criteria for the selection of articles included in this bibliography followed these topical areas: (1) studies of rhetorical elements (communication/communicator) with a gay emphasis; (2) verbal communication modes (labels/etymologies/interpersonal and group process); (3) nonverbal communication factors related to gay men and lesbian women; (4) articles discussing heterosexual bias in research, and specific articles illustrating heterophobic bias in communication studies. Generally speaking any article having lesbian women or gay men as subjects dealing with a specific verbal or nonverbal communication factor are included.

Twelve annotations are reprinted from Joseph J. Hayes's "Language and Language Behavior of Lesbian Women and Gay Men: A Selected Bibliography (Part I), Journal of Homosexuality, 4, No. 2, (Winter 1978), 201-212. Other annotations

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have been selected from the following publications: the Homosexual Counseling Journal, vols. 1-3, contains 22 studies of which one has a communication focus; the Journal of Homosexuality's annotated bibliographic sections in volumes 1-4, include 518 studies of which 37 have a focus on homosexual communication elements (12 annotations from Hayes's work are included here); the Journal of Sex Research, vols. 1-13, contain 50 studies relating to homosexuality of which one has a communication orientation; the Journal of Social Issues, vol. 34, no. 3, titled "Psychology and the Gay Community," contains 9 articles one focusing on a communication factor, an additional article from the Winter 1978 issue is also included in the bibliography; Medical Aspects of Human Sexuality generally referred to as Human Sexuality, vols. 9-12, list approximately 480 articles none of which deal with homosexual communication variables (it is interesting to note here that a number of articles deal with sexual communication problems of heterosexual married copules, e.g., "Sex and Body Language," "Sexual Scripts," "Sexual Difficulties Due to Stereotyped Role Playing," indicating a strong heterosexual emphasis to a readearship of physicians and medical professionals); Stephen F. Morin's An Annotated Bibliography of Research on Lesbianism and Male Homosexuality was consulted, it lists 139 homosexual studies of which one had a clear communication emphasis.

This annotated bibliography is far from inclusive (if an inclusive bibliography is ever possible) and more than likely it overlooks special interests of a number of readers, but it is hoped that this collection of article reviews will provide communication scholars with a brief overview of what has been done and more importantly what needs to be accomplished in future research. One final word, it is interesting to note that only two of the 22 articles included here are from our own communication journals.

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Bender, V.L.; Davis, Y.; & Glover, O. Patterns of Self-disclosure in homosexual and heterosexual college students. Sex Roles, 1976, 2(2), 149-160.
Investigates two hypotheses concerning self-disclosure, comparing heterosexual and homosexual college students. Results showed no significant differences in total disclosure between homosexuals and heterosexuals, although homosexuals disclosed less to their fathers and more to friends than family. [Citation: Journal of Homosexuality, Spring 1977, 2(3), 304.]

Chesebro, J.W.; Cragan, J.F.; & McCullough, P. The small group technique of the radical revolutionary: A synthetic study of consciousness raising. Speech Monographs, June 1973, 40(2), 136-146.
Four stages in gay small-group consciousness raising are identified: identity creation, struggle, advocacy of new values and alignment with other groups Rhetorical characteristics in each stage reflect the conflicts and alignments within the group. The authors include tables and dialogue samples. [Citation: Journal of Homosexuality, Winter 1978, 4(2), 210.]

Darsey, J. Escalation of agitative rhetoric: A case study of Mattachine Midwest, 1967-1970. Paper presented at the meeting of the Central States Speech Association, 1977. (ERIC Resources in Education, No. 140358)

Analysis of the rhetoirc of the Midwest Mattachine Society Newsletter during the period surrounding June 1969 shows that the society covered only a limited number of the strategies for escalating intragroup rhetoric outlined by Bower and Ochs (The Rhetoric of Agitation and Control, Addison-Wesley, 1971): petition, promulgation, polarization, solidification, politicization, and coalition.

[Citation: Journal of Homosexuality, Winter 1978, 4(2), 210.]

DeCecco, J.P. & Freedman, M. A Study of Interpersonal Conflict in Homosexual Relations. Homosexual Counseling Journal, October 1975, 2(4), 146-149.

The present study attempts to examine how homosexual men and women deal with interpersonal conflict. One hundred twenty-two subjects were interviewed. They were asked to describe a conflict involving homosexuality and to rate the civil liberties and psychological issues involved. Results are discussed in terms of choice of issues for resolving conflict through negotiation. Implications for counseling homosexuals are discussed.

[Citation: Homosexual Counseling Journal, October 1975, 2(4), 146-149.]

Dodge, T.N.P. The origins of "Faggot," etc. Christopher Street (New York), May 1977, 1(11), 61-62.

Dodge traces the etymology of six words: (a) bugger, Russian Volga, supposed home of the Bulgars; (b) SM, the Marquis de Sade and Baron Leopold von Sacher-Masoch; (c) butch, Old French boc (he-goat), an example of back-formation from bouchier (one who kills and sells he-goats); (d) stud, Old High German mare; (e) fey/fay, Old English faege (fated, thus fey) and Latin fata, (fairy, thus fay); and (f) faggot, either to compel someone to do menial services or Latin fax, facis (a torch), with connections to religious and sexual heresy.

[Citation: Journal of Homosexuality, Winter 1978, 4(2), 205.]

Goldhaber, G.M. Gay talk: Communication behavior of male homosexuals. Gai Saber, Summer 1977, 1(2), 136-149. [Note: Gai Saber is a publication of the Gay Academic Union.]

This ethnographic field study gathered empirical data to determine the settings and verbal-nonverbal communications used by gay males during initial courtship. Interviews and participant-observation techniques were employed for 1,016 gay men in 10 cities of various sizes and locations. Settings included parties, groups, movies, bars, streets, bookstores, baths, restrooms, parks, beaches, and restaurants. Six major types of verbal behavior were isolated, the most frequent subjects being rituals, pastimes, and activities. Eye behavior (glances,stares) was the most important of the nine major types of nonverbal behavior. Fifteen questions for further research are included.

[Citation: Journal of Homosexuality, Winter 1978, 4(2), 208.]

Hayes, J.J. Gayspeak. Quarterly Journal of Speech, October 1976, 62(3), 256-266.

A self-informant analyzes American gay men's language behavior in three situated contexts: secret, social, and radical-activist. In the secret setting, gays

employ euphemistic and coded terms that rely on sex-role stereotyped behavior. In a social setting there is the broadest range of variation, employing metaphors of exaggerated theatricality, camp irony and pose. Radical-activist situations discourage camping, sex-role reversal and stereotypes, emphasizing the redefinition of terms (faggot, dyke) and avoidance of most traditional gay slang. Further distinctions are made by literal or ironic understanding of contextual meaning. Gay men have a heightened interest in language, sex/language relationships, and the importance of nonverbal behavior.
[Citation: Journal of Homosexuality, Winter 1978, 4(2), 208.]

Henderson, J. Homosexuality. The maculate muse: Obscene language in Attic comedy. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1975.

Concentrating principally on the plays of Aristophanes, Henderson presents a discussion of words that "expose sexual and excremental areas of human activity to public view." Greek men treat homosexuality in comedy as a harmless vice, but often as an example of corruption, decadence, shamelessness, and wickedness. Pathics receive the greatest abuse. Their attributes are smooth white skin, hairless ass, and large phallus/small ass. Older, active pederasts are censured for failure to have grown-up interests. Athenian nobles are mocked for portraying common passion as lofty tradition. Lowest in respectability are the effeminates, whose stereotyped characteristics are doubtful sex, transvestism, depilated anus, softness, shaving, and promiscuity. Examples of terms, definitions, dramatic characters, and motifs are presented for several plays. Lesbianism is not discussed.
[Citation: Journal of Homosexuality, Winter 1978, 4(2), 211.]

Johnston, J. Are lesbians "Gay"? Ms., June 1975, 3(12), 85-86.

In her review of Out of the Closets, edited by Karla Jay and Allen Young, Johnston provides an extended definition of the feminist/lesbian, emphasizing her need to dissociate herself from gay liberation groups, whose rhetoric and ideology, feminist on the surface, seek only an acceptance of a "life-style." Gay, to many lesbians, evokes "camp" or a "cultural satire" of women. Gay also fails to describe the militant anger of those seeking great social change.
[Citation: Journal of Homosexuality, Winter 1978, 4(2), 206.]

Karr, Rodney G. Homosexual Labeling and the Male Role. Journal of Social Issues, 1978, 34(3), 73-83.

This study attempted to experimentally isolate and determine the effects of the lable "homosexual" upon the perceptions and behavior of the social audience toward men so labeled. Participants rated three different experimental confederates, each labeled homosexual in three groups. Men were perceived as being significantly less masculine and less preferred as a fellow participant in any future experiment when they were labeled homosexual. The man responsible for the primary labeling of the homosexual was perceived as more masculine and more sociable when he labeled the homosexual than when he did not. Results are discussed in terms of the function of the fear of the homosexual label in maintaining the traditional male role.
[Citation: Journal of Social Issues, 1978, 34 (3), 73-83.]

Kockheisler, C. What happened when a speaker for gay liberation addressed high school students. Social Education, April 1975, 39 (4), 219-221.
A social studies department chairman in an upstate New York State high school describes the controversies raised by inviting a gay liberation speaker to a lecture session. Despite vociferous opposition from members of the surrounding community, rules relating to the academic freedom of the school departments were affirmed. The author notes that video-taping the session allowed for valuable reviewing sessions later on.
[Citation: Journal of Homosexuality, 1976, 1 (3), 339.]

Lesher, M. Choose four: lesbian/feminist, woman, dyke, gay, chick, homosexual, lesbian, amazon, girl. Lesbian Connection (East Lansing), February 12, 1974, 1. (Reprinted, Know, Inc. 1975.) [Note: Lesbian Connection address as of 1975 was Lesbian Connection, Ambitious Amazons, P.O. Box 811, East Lansing MI 48823.]
Lesbians use a number of words to describe themselves, often without reflection. Chick and girl suggest preadolescence. Homosexual reinforces the stereotype of nymphomania, neurosis, and masculinity. Gay is a male term in which lesbians are invisible; it also implies "silly, airy, wanton." Lesbian/feminist suggest either/or, and straight women do not have the same concerns as lesbians. The most accurate labels are amazon, dyke, woman, and lesbian, all of which give the lesbian self-identity, a sense of heritage, and correct militancy. These four words also assist in forming a sense of community.
[Citation: Journal of Homosexuality, Winter 1978, 4(2), 206.]

Lumby, M.E. Code switching and sexual orientation: A test of Bernstein's sociolinguistic theory. Journal of Homosexuality, 1976, 1(4), 383-399.
According to Bernstein's theory of elaborated and restricted codes, messages between gay males should show evidence of restricted coding. Lumby tested this hypothesis by asking 60 gay and 60 straight male students to describe homoerotica and to complete an attitude questionnaire. Gay males with a gay audience produced the largest proportion of adverbs (elaborated messages) and the use of you and they (elaboration would be redundant). Gay males with straight audiences used the highest number of evasive devices in talking about sex. Lumby suggests that sociolinguistic coding ought to be viewed as a dynamic process, in which social experiences (functional level of analysis) impinge upon lexicogrammatical organization (structural level of analysis). Codes are continua, not dichotomies.
[Citation: Journal of Homosexuality, Winter 1978, 4(2), 208.]

Morin, S.F. Heterosexual bias in psychological research on lesbianism and male homosexuality. American Psychologist, August 1977, 32(8), 629-637.
The author argues that heterosexual bias, herein defined as that value system which conceptualizes heterosexuality as a more desirable and "natural" behavior than homosexuality, influences the types of questions formulated, data gathered, and interpretations offered in homosexuality research. He contends that a positive redefinition of homosexuality as an acceptable alternative life style would result in changes in the direction of research orientation.
[Citation: Journal of Homosexuality, Winter 1977, 3(2), 196.]

Morin, S.F.; & Garfinkle, E.M. Male Homophobia. The Journal of Social Issues, Winter 1978, 34(1), 29-47.

This article explores the meaning and dynamics of male homophobia, the irrational fear or intolerance of gay men, and relates this phenomena to the experience of the male role. Literature on homophobia is reviewed from both the standpoint of socialized belief systems within the culture and from the perspective of individual personality characteristics. Issues in defining homophobia are discussed, and the pervasiveness, manifestations, and correlates of homophobia are examined. Male homophobia is observed to serve the function of keeping men within the boundaries of traditionally defined roles. The experiences of gay men are used as the basis to suggest possible creative role violation for all men.
[Citation: Journal of Social Issues, Winter 1978, 34(1), 29-47.]

Murray, S.O. Ritual insults in the subcultures of the oppressed. Paper presented at the meeting of the American Sociological Association, 1977.

A comparison of ritual insults in black, gay, and Jewish subcultures shows stigmatized groups' verbal responses to oppression. A ritual insult is an exaggerated or untruthful characterization, marked as a challenge to retort. Three basic themes appear in these groups' insults: the targeted person's (a) sexual receptivity, (b) wealth or poverty, and (c) inappropriate accommodation to the dominant group (in relationship to the stereotype of the minority group). Ritual insults are products and instruments of oppression, but also creative protests against that oppression.
[Citation: Journal of Homosexuality, Winter 1978, 4(2), 211.]

Ponse, B. Secrecy in the lesbian world. Urban Life, October 1976, 5(3), 313-338.

In maintaining a straight identity among straight people ("passing") the lesbian may use a variety of strategies including details of speech, affect, dress, and demeanor. Conversations that are relatively matter-of-fact for straight people may be occasions of "elaborate impression management" for the secretive lesbian. Ponse discusses remaining neutral during derogatory remarks about gay people, the management of appearance, modes of dressing, and nonverbal communication. She also explores the concepts of "counterfeit secrecy" and "modes of disclosure."
[Citation: Journal of Homosexuality, Winter 1978, 4(2), 209.]

Porter,J.F. Homosexuality treated adventitiously in a stuttering therapy program: A case report presenting a heterophobic orientation. Australian & New Zealand Journal of Psychiatry, June 1976, 10(2), 185-190.

Reports on a patient who sought help and received therapy for stuttering. The patient was homosexual, having been initiated into sex by his father, and trasvestitic behavior was present in his history. Desensitization techniques appeared to improve his verbal fluency, as well as causing a general relaxation toward women. A heterosexual orientation resulted.
[Citation: Journal of Homosexuality, Winter 1976, 2(2), 187.]

Rodgers, B. Gay slang as a communal adhesive including some etymological conclusions. Paper presented at the Western Regional Meeting of the American Dialect Society, 1975.

Rodgers makes observations about gay slang from a predominantly white, gay-male-ghetto setting. Gay slang grew out of the gay social clubs of Victorian England. It often mixes sacred and profane by means of homonyms (e.g., queen and quean). In "coming out" (likened to "being born") gay men may be renamed. British Parlari (or Parlyaree), a branch of the Lingua France, was picked up by East London gays, who learned it from sailors. Mary! (cf. Mary Ann, a "sodomite") may be derived from Lingua Franca marinie.o ("sailor"). Some gay slang is spoken by those outside the main social strata-Jews, Romanies, Irish tinkers--and may reflect the dual status of such groups. Rodgers gives examples and discusses activists'efforts to make oppressive terms more affirmative. [Citation: Journal of Homosexuality, Winter 1978, 4(2), 209.]

Sonenschein, D. The Homosexual's language. Journal of Sex Research, November 1969, 5(4), 281-291.

The author studied the language of gay men in a city in the southwestern United States to find how they view themselves and their world and what influences exist between the individual and the group. Lower status men used slang the most frequently, but not outside a gay context. As a spoken language, gay slang is cohesive and communicative, fundamental to special group relations and control. Gay men's language is characterized by effeminization, utilization (terms borrowed from other groups), redirection (change to a homosexual referent), and invention. The language focuses on social and sexual relationships rather than on the sex act itself; role and sex terms must be distinguished. The majority of role terms are not shared with the heterosexual community. In upper status groups gay slang is limited in quality and quantity. Lesbians who share infrequently in male groups have only a few terms in common with the men. Their terms are of reference, not address, and act as a codification of status-role expectations.
[Citation: Journal of Homosexuality, Winter 1978, 4(2), 209.]

Wolfgang, A.; & Wolfgang, J. Exploration of attitudes via physical interpersonal distance toward the obese, drug users, homosexuals, police and other marginal figures. Journal of Clinical Psychology, 1971, 27(4), 510-512.

Thirty male students in an Introductory Psychology course and forty military males assigned to Walter Reed Medical Center were used as subjects in this study. Using an interpersonal space methodology subjects were found to position themselves significantly further from marijuana users, drug addicts, obese persons, and homosexuals (present or former) than from normal peers. Former homosexuals evoked even greater distance than current homosexuals. Little optimism was verbalized about change being possible for homosexual figures.
[Citation: Morin, S.F. An Annotated Bibliography of Research on Lesbianism and Male Homosexuality (1967-1974). California State College, San Bernardino.]

The annotations listed indicate the direction of research conducted in the area of communication studies of lesbian women and gay men. From this brief review many gaps and unanswered questions are apparent. Let us be encouraged by the challenge presented and the special contributions that we as communication researchers can offer in filling in the gaps and answering the questions.

I wish to acknowledge the excellent cumulative annotated bibliographic listings from the issues of the Journal of Homosexuality. These listings provide the most current source of information on research studies of lesbian women and gay men. For this feature alone the Journal of Homosexuality is well worth the subscription price. If you are interested in subscribing write: Journal of Homosexuality, Haworth Press, 149 Fifth Avenue, New York, New York 10010. I also wish to acknowledge the staff of the Sex Research Institute at Indiana University for their assistance in the preparation of this article.

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An Anti-Gay Caucus?

As we anticipated at the SCA convention in Minneapolis, negative reactions to the formation of the Caucus on Gay and Lesbian Concerns of the SCA have begun to surface. A letter sent to a number of SCA members by James R. Phipps, Chairman, Department of Speech Communications, Cedarville College, Ohio, is reprinted here for your information. We wish to call your attention to the April issue of SPECTRA which deals with the issues raised by the Phipps letter and our response.

Jim Chesebro reports that two kinds of reactions of gay caucus members attending the Western Speech Communication Convention were expressed. Some people were very concerned, wished such negative reactions would not have occurred, and wished that the caucus might have been accepted as it has in other professional associations. Others had a sense that such a reaction would occur, predicted such negative challenges, and welcomed the challenges if they are necessary to explain issues.

The Steering Committee of the Caucus has responded in two ways. First a response letter for the April issue of SPECTRA was drafted and submitted for publication. Second, the Steering Committee, at its May 4th meeting at the ICA convention in Philadelphia, will discuss strategies for dealing with circumstances likely to emerge at the SCA convention in San Antonio. The outcome of this meeting, and further information on the issues presented by Phipps and others, will be printed in the next issue of Alternative Communications.

~~The text of the James R. Phipps letter is reproduced on the next page.~~
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